

Commissioner's Corner

IS IT SAFE?



-Don Henry

When you and your family get a burger or go to a sit-down dinner, you probably don't wonder if the food is safe. When you go to a river or lake to go swimming, do you worry if the water is safe? When you get a glass of water to drink, do you wonder "is it safe?" after you hear and read of horror stories of water contamination? ****SKYWAY WATER IS SAFE!**** The reason is that a portion of your bill pays for the inspection, testing and maintenance to keep the tanks and water lines that bring the water to your home or business clean and in good working condition. This includes regular inspections by the Washington State Department of Health.

Some of your bill pays for the pipes and pumps that collect the sewage from your house or business and transfer it to the treatment plant. It also pays for treatment to clean the sewage so that it can be safely returned to Puget Sound.

All of this helps to keep the streams, rivers and lakes clean & safe to swim in and your glass of water safe. Enjoy!

Cross Connection Control

Your District staff perform many tasks to keep your water and sewer systems running smoothly. One of the very important tasks they perform is administering a **Cross Connection Program** to eliminate and/or control cross connections to the District water system.

◆ What is a "Cross Connection"?

A "cross connection" is a connection between two otherwise separate systems: 1) one of which is public and contains safe drinking water and 2) another which is private and may contain water of questionable quality, steam, gas or harmful chemicals.



◆ Why is Cross Connection Control Necessary?

Because water can and does flow backwards under certain pressure reduction circumstances (for example, a water main break or large scale firefighting situation), the public water system must be protected from cross connections and potentially harmful backflow situations.

◆ Does your property have a cross connection? If so, is that connection properly controlled?

If your home or business has an irrigation system, fire sprinkler system, or other system that is not used for drinking water, you may possibly have a cross connection. The District is obligated by law to manage and protect the public water system from backflow contamination. If a cross connection is unable to be eliminated, it must be controlled through the use of an approved "backflow device".

◆ What should I do?

If you think you may have a cross connection, please contact the District office and we can determine if you do have a cross connection and how it can best be eliminated or controlled.

Safe drinking water is one of our most precious natural resources. It is the District's responsibility to protect **your** drinking water supply and we need your assistance and cooperation to do this. If you have questions or desire additional information, please call our office at (206)772-7343. Thank you!

All Hazard Preparedness

Recent news reports of international conflict and bombing threats have raised concerns about public safety. However, according to experts, **a major earthquake is much more likely to strike our region** than missiles. Since being ready for one significant disaster scenario makes you ready for many others, the District continues to emphasize **"all-hazard preparedness"** with our customers. Having a list of emergency contacts, supplies of food and water, and extra clothing are simple preparations each of us can make.



King County Emergency Management recently spoke to the media about the recent international threats (<https://tinyurl.com/yce5cjzv>). More information on hazards and how to prepare for them is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd9h9moh>.



King County Fire District #20

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY RENEWAL

On November 7, 2017, voters will be asked to renew the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy. The M&O levy is authorized by the RCW for maintenance and operational support of a fire district for the period designated by the proposition. This funding enables the fire district to sustain an adequate level of service and keep the district's facilities operational and safe.

In 2012, voters overwhelmingly approved the M&O Levy. This M&O levy was in place for 4 years; it expired in December 2016. Property taxes are the primary source of funding

for fire districts, providing 90% of the revenue. Even with increases in assessed valuation, the amount of property tax which can be collected is limited by legislation to an increase of 1% annually. The costs of providing fire prevention, fire suppression and emergency medical services have increased because of specialized equipment, personnel training, supplies and reporting required by county, state and federal regulations. This M&O levy will provide the funds necessary to continue safe, effective and efficient services to our community. For more information, visit:

king20fire.org/LevyInfo



WEST HILL

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

don't miss:

West Hill Community Association's Fall Community Quarterly Meeting

Special presentations, community announcements, news & reports.

📅 Tues Oct 17th, 7pm 📍 Skyway VFW, 7421 S 126th St

When's the next West Hill Action Mob party happening?

✉ Sign up for email alerts at MyWestHill.org.

How can I directly support real change in my community?

👉 Make a donation at MyWestHill.org/donate!

What's going on in my neighborhood this week?

📅 Check out the events calendar at MyWestHill.org/calendar!

MyWestHill.org • [MyWestHill](https://www.facebook.com/MyWestHill)

[MyWestHill](https://www.instagram.com/MyWestHill) • [WestHillTweets](https://twitter.com/WestHillTweets)

Vote

November 7



Imagine A Day Without Water - October 12, 2017

Imagine this: No water to drink, or even to make coffee with. No water to shower, flush the toilet, or do laundry. Hospitals would have to close without water. Firefighters couldn't put out fires, farmers couldn't water their crops, and doctors couldn't wash their hands. A single nationwide day without water service would put **\$43.5 billion of economic activity** at risk. In just eight days, a national water service stoppage would put nearly 2 million jobs in jeopardy. All kinds of activities would be

interrupted if water was not available. Some communities in America already know how impossible it is to try to go a day without our most precious resource: **Water**. On **October 12, 2017**, please join Skyway Water & Sewer District and other organizations across the country as we raise awareness about the value of water.

*Water is life. It nourishes us. It cleans us and sustains us. Put simply, **water is you.***

- The average American uses 80 -100 gallons of water per day—that's roughly 32,850

gallons a year!

- How is water used in your home? On average, 19% goes toward showering, 28% is used by the toilet, your faucet drains 16%, your clothes washer another 22%, and those pesky water leaks steal another 14%.
- If drinking water and soda pop cost equally, your water bill would skyrocket more than 10,000%.

In 2016, over 500 organizations nationwide joined with the Value of Water Coalition to communicate the importance of

safe, reliable water infrastructure. The Coalition is a group of public and private water agencies, business and community leaders, and national organizations uniting to communicate the importance of water to the economic, environmental, and social well-being of America. We're hoping to raise that awareness even more in 2017 and educate our customers about this most vital resource. **Please use water wisely!!**

